

Montana KEYS Homework Assignments

Homework Assignments are designed to be supplemental to the high school driver education curriculum sponsored by the Montana Traffic Education Programs, Office of Public Instruction. Thus, the content of the homework assignments contain certain topics, progress in a certain way, and follow and build upon each other.
Homework Assignments consider parents as "supervisors" of practice driving and driving skills rather than "teachers" of driving skills. Thus, the teenagers' role is to familiarize parents with terms and procedures that they are learning in driver education.
Homework Assignments are not yet evaluated for effectiveness. Thus far, parents and driver education instructors like the activities, but research on their impact on parent supervision of teen driving or teen driver safety behaviors or outcomes has not been conducted.
Homework Assignments are based on the tenets of Goal-oriented Persuasion, which indicates that to be most effective:
O Parents and teenagers need to participate in the activities together. Each has a role to play so interactions should feel more "conversational" than "academic" or "one-sided."
O Homework Assignments need to be distributed and completed one at a time (not given 2 or more at a time or all together). Parents and teenagers need to have enough time between assignments to assimilate the information from each assignment into practice driving before turning their attention to another and/or more advanced topic.
O Homework Assignments need to be printed in color and preferably on heavier stock and/or shiny paper. This makes them seem more important, valuable, significant, etc.
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Hartos, JL, Huff, D, & Carroll, J. (2009). Keep Encouraging Young Driver Safety (KEYS) Pilot Study: Increasing Parental Involvement in Teenage Driving through Driver Education. Final Report. Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) No. 8117-37. Available at: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/research/projects/planning/keys.shtml
If others are interested in learning more about the Montana KEYS Project or in obtaining copies of the homework assignments, please have them contact Fran Penner-Ray at fpenner-ray@mt.gov or (406) 444-4432, rather than distributing the materials yourself.